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Message Text

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23 45
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01
TRSE-00 IO-13 OMB-01 /073 W
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R 081002Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 724
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY LISBON

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, RO, IT
SUBJECT: VISIT OF SECRETARY GENERAL OF ITALIAN SOCIALIST
PARTY TO ROMANIA

REF: ROME 19647

1. BETTINO CRAXI, SECRETARY GENERAL OF ITALIAN SOCIALIST PARTY VISITED ROMANIA DECEMBER 3-6 AND WAS RECEIVED BY ROMANIAN PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU. ACCORDING TO ITALIAN AMBASSADOR, TALKS CENTERED ON GOR DESIRE TO INTENSIFY BILATERAL CONTACTS. CEAUSESCU REPORTEDLY URGED CRAXI TO USE HIS INFLUENCE IN NEW ITALIAN GOVERNMENT TO ARRANGE VISIT TO ROMANIA BY PRIME MINISTER ANDREOTTI SOMETIME EARLY NEXT YEAR, THUS RESUMING HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE WHICH HAS BEEN SOMEWHAT DORMANT SINCE MAY 1973 VISIT TO ROME BY CEAUSESCU. ITALIAN FONMIN HAS ACCEPTED IN PRINCIPLE INVITATION TO VISIT HERE IN MARCH, BUT GOR WOULD LIKE EVEN HIGHER-LEVEL EXCHANGE.

2. CEAUSESCU IS SAID TO HAVE REASSURED CRAXI SEVERAL TIMES THAT ROMANIAN POLICY HAS NOT BEEN ALTERED IN WAKE OF BREZHNEV VISIT OR WARSAW PACT MEETING. THERE WAS APPARENTLY LITTLE DISCUSSION OF INTERNAL ITALIAN SITUATION, ALTHOUGH PORTUGUESE POLITICS WAS TOPIC OF CONVERSATION DURING DINNER GIVEN BY CRAXI AND ATTENDED
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BY RCP SECRETARIES STEFAN ANDREI AND CORNEL BURTICA.

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INTERESTINGLY, CRAXI FOUND HIMSELF DEFENDING SOARES, WHILE ANDREI AND BURTICA FELT MILITARY SHOULD PLAY MORE OF A ROLE AS A STABILIZING FORCE IN PORTUGUESE POLITICAL LIFE. ACCORDING TO ITALIAN AMBASSADOR, ROMANIAN INVITATION FOR VISIT WAS LONG OUTSTANDING HAVING ORIGINALLY BEEN ISSUED BY STEFAN ANDREI TO CRAXI'S PREDECESSOR DEMARTINO AND THERE SEEMED TO BE NO PARTICULAR TIMING FACTOR.

3. WE WOULD APPRECIATE WHATEVER INFORMATION AMEMBASSY ROME MIGHT PICK UP IF THEY HAVE CHANCE TO DEBRIEF CRAXI UPON HIS RETURN.
BARNES

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